

REMARKS

Claims 20-21 are pending in this application. Claims 1-19 were previously canceled.

Nonentry of Reply After Final

Nonentry of the Reply After Final dated November 30, 2006 is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 20 and 21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement.

With respect to claim 20, the Examiner states that he does not find support for a temperature of 500°C or higher.

Claim 20 has been amended to claim:

wherein said charging step includes the step of carrying out the thermal treatment at a temperature not lower than 550°C and not higher than 700°C, such that a grouped metal constituting said housing shells does not melt

to overcome this rejection.

Applicants respectfully submit that, as the Examiner acknowledged in the Office Action, support for the foregoing limitations can be found at least in page 10, line 22 of the specification as filed and page 8, line 4 of the substitute specification.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 20 and 21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fukabori et al. (USP 5,849,062) in view of Morey (USP 4,362,276). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In the claimed invention of the present application, the “charging step includes the step of carrying out the thermal treatment at a temperature not lower than 550°C and not higher than 700°C, such that a grouped metal constituting said housing shells does not melt.” By carrying out the thermal treatment at a temperature not lower than 550°C and not higher than 700°C, initiators in waste inflators will not remain unburned, and thus can prevent the initiators from burning during the subsequent melting step (for melting inflators) and scattering the melted metals which is dangerous.

In the Office Action, the Examiner states that Fukabori discloses igniting gas generators by heating at a temperature between 150 and 450°C to ignite and completely burn the gas generating agent.

The Examiner also relies on the Morey reference to show that it is known in the art to cut and remove the wiring harness at the root portion of the wiring harness.

Therefore, even assuming that Fukabori and Morey can be combined, which Applicants do not admit, one skilled in the art would, at best, conceive a high temperature treating method, in which the inflators to be processed are heated at a temperature between 150 and 450°C. Due to this relatively low temperature, initiators in inflators remain unburned and burn during the subsequent melting step. This is dangerous because burning of the initiators may scatter the melted metals.

Accordingly, Fukabori and Morey, taken singly or in combination, fails to disclose or suggest the step of "carrying out the thermal treatment at a temperature not lower than 550°C and not higher than 700°C," as recited in claim 20.

Claim 21, dependent on claim 20, is allowable at least for its dependency on claim 20.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Conclusion

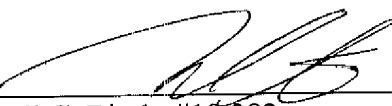
Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of the pending claims in the present application are respectfully requested.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Maki Hatsumi (#40,417) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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